IN THE CLAIMS

Amend claims 11 and 14 as follows:

1.   (previously presented) A check comprising:

sheet material having a first area portion and a second area portion which is different from the first area portion;

means defining at least one symbol which is pre-printed on the first area portion of the sheet material; and

means for storing on the second area portion of the sheet material encoded information including apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one image quality characteristic associated with the at least one symbol which is pre-printed on the first area portion of the sheet material.

2.   (previously presented) A check comprising:

sheet material having a first area portion and a second area portion which is different from the first area portion;

at least one symbol which is other than a magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) codeline and which is pre-printed on the first area portion of the sheet material; and

means for storing on the second area portion of the sheet material encoded information including apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one image quality characteristic associated with the at least one symbol which is other than a MICR codeline and which is pre-printed on the first area portion of the sheet material.

3-10.   (canceled)

11.   (currently amended) A computer-implemented method of providing an indication of quality of an image of a financial document having a first area portion and a

second area portion which is different from the first area portion, the <u>computer-implemented</u> method comprising:

storing on the second area portion of the financial document encoded information including apriori reference image quality data which is representative of an image quality characteristic associated with at least one symbol which is pre-printed on the first area portion of the financial document;

receiving image data which is representative of the image of the financial document;

<u>electronically by a processor</u> retrieving the apriori reference image quality data from the encoded information stored on the second area portion of the financial document;

<u>electronically by a processor</u> comparing the retrieved apriori reference image quality data with the received image data to determine the image quality of the symbol which is pre-printed on the first area portion of the financial document; and

providing an indication of quality of the image of the financial document based upon the comparison of the retrieved apriori reference image quality data with the received image data.

12-13. (canceled)

14.   (currently amended) A <u>computer-implemented</u> method of providing an indication of quality of an image of a check having a first area portion and a second area portion which is different from the first area portion, the <u>computer-implemented</u> method comprising:

storing on the second area portion of the check encoded information including apriori reference image quality data which is representative of an image quality characteristic associated with a symbol which is other than a magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) codeline and which is pre-printed on the first area portion of the check;

receiving image data which is representative of the image of the check;

electronically by a processor retrieving the apriori reference image quality data from the encoded information stored on the second area portion of the financial document;

electronically by a processor comparing the retrieved apriori reference image quality data with the received image data to determine the image quality of the symbol which is other than a MICR codeline and which is pre-printed on the first area portion of the check; and

providing an indication of quality of the image of the check based upon the comparison of the retrieved apriori reference image quality data with the received image data.